

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 235267

53

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 NEA-10 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20 NSC-10 /093 R

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R 302102Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 235267

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, ID
SUBJ: HANCOCK REPLACEMENT IN INDIAN OCEAN

REF: STATE 233662

1. FYI: REPLACEMENT CARRIER REFERRED TO REF WILL BE USS
ORISKANY WHICH WILL TRANSIT MALACCA STRAIT DURING DAYLIGHT
HOURS ON 1 DEC. END FYI.

2. SUBSEQUENT TO ORISKANY TRANSIT MALACCA STRAIT, ONLY IF
QUERIED BY HOST GOVT OR MEDIA YOU MAY DRAW UPON PARA 4 REF-
TEL WITH QUOTE INDIAN OCEAN UNQUOTE DELETED AND FOLLOWING
PRESS GUIDANCE PREPARED HERE: THE SEVENTH FLEET AIRCRAFT
CARRIER USS ORISKANY, AND FOUR DESTROYERS, MAKING UP TASK
GROUP 77.5, HAVE ENTERED THE INDIAN OCEAN IN EARLY DECEMBER.
THE ORISKANY WILL REPLACE USS HANCOCK, WHICH AFTER SAILING
INTERNATIONAL WATERS WITHIN THE INDIAN OCEAN, THE ARABIAN
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PAGE 02 STATE 235267

SEA AND ADJACENT WATERS FOR ABOUT ONE MONTH WILL RETURN TO

OPERATIONS WITHIN THE WESTERN PACIFIC AREA. THE OPERATION OF NAVAL UNITS IN THIS AREA FROM TIME TO TIME IS CONSISTENT WITH U.S. INTERESTS AND HELPS TO MAINTAIN FAMILIARIZATION WITH OPERATIONS WITHIN INTERNATIONAL WATERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

3. FOLLOWING Q AND A PRESS GUIDANCE WHICH MAY BE HELPFUL:

FUEL SUPPLIES CUT OFF IN THE AREA?

. THE TASK GROUP UNITS WERE RESUPPLIED FROM US NAVY OILERS.

A THE TASK GROUP UNITS WERE RESUPPLIED FROM US NAVY OILERS.

Q DID TASK GROUP 77.6 MAKE ANY PORT CALLS DURING ITS STAY IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A THE CVA USS HANCOCK HAS REMAINED AT SEA THROUGHOUT ITS VISIT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. WE EXPECT THAT TWO DESTROYERS WHICH ARE A PART OF THE TASK GROUP MAY MAKE A SHORT PORT CALL PRIOR TO DEPARTING THE AREA.

Q DID USS HANCOCK AIRCRAFT USE ANY AIRFIELDS FOR OPERATIONS WHILE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A I DO NOT CONSIDER IT APPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF TASK GROUP OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

Q HOW LONG WILL THE ORISKANY REMAIN IN THE INDIAN OCEAN?

A WE ARE NOT CERTAIN OF THIS TIME.

Q WHERE WILL THEY OPERATE?

A IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AND ITS ENVIRONS. RUSH

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